Vol. IV. Numb. 48.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the present Condition of the Cevennois. *Remarks thereon. Of the News from* Catalonia. *The* Observator *Vindicated from the Aspersions of the* Review.

From **Wednesday** September the 12th, to **Saturday** September the 15th, 1705.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, I have got special News for you, rare News from beyound Sea. You know I am to pick and cull *Subjects* for you.

Obs. Yes; that was a wise Bargain of mine, and you have cull'd 'em very finely; the first attempt you made of that Nature is likely to cost me a good Sum of Money.

Country-m. What Farthing is now come on the Score? Pray, Master, let me hear it.

Obs. Not a Word. The next time we meet I'll give you a full Account, at present let's hear your rare News?

Country-m. The *Camisars* were not Dead, but Slept; they are now awake in the *Cevennes*, and the Duke of *Berwick*, a Natural Son that some Body or other got for King *James*, was just Marching for *Catalonia*, but is now ordered to look after the *Cevennois*.

They have appeared in considerable Bodies, and they came to the House of one *Julien*, who had been formerly of their Party, and turn'd *Papist*, and became a *Cruel Prosecutor*. I wish all *False Loons* and *Turn-Coats* were so serv'd, they are not fit to Live.

Obs. I told you long since, That those People were not totally Suppress'd, That God had some considerable Work for that small handful of Men to do for the *Honour* of His *Name*, and the *Good* of the *Protestant Interest*. Whilst the Thoughts of one part of Mankind have been employ'd in finding out Reasons, why those poor People have had no *Humane Assistance*, the other part have been employ'd in the Admiration of the good Providence of *God*, that has preserv'd yet a Remnant of 'em to stand in Defence of their *Liberties*, and of their *Holy Religion*.

The *Sacred Histories* afford Us Instances enough, what *Mean* and *Contemptible Instruments God* has made use of to do His mighty Works. *Moses* and *David* are clear Instances. Our own Experience affords Us sufficient Testimonies hereof. *The poor Mans Wisdom has Saved the City, when God has Confounded the Wisdom of the Wise.* And tho' the great Men in Power at this day, are *Hampering* and *Prosecuting* the little *Scribblers*, as they call 'em, I can tell 'em the time when *Scribbling* sav'd our *Liberties*, which seem'd precarious by the apparent danger of a *Standing Army*.

'Tis a common thing to Judge of the Cause by Persons that are concerned in it. The People in the *Cevennes* are none of 'em *Hereditary Princes*, have no *Titles* or large *Possessions*, and therefore they are Contemptible in the Eyes of such who esteem great *Names* and *Titles* the necessary Qualifications for *Enterprizes*, when God knows, they are but meer *Bubbles*, empty *Nothings*, Insignificant *Trifles*, meer Shadows of *Conduct*, when *Real Merit* and *Personal Worth* ought to take place in the Eyes of the discerning World.

I know not how it may please with some, but *Considératis Considerandis*. The *Cevennois* have given such Proofs of *Courage* and *Conduct* that one Age hes not produc'd a like Instance, and yet these are *Unregarded*, the *Despis'd* and *Contemptible Creatures*.

The Death of the Sieur *Julien* is a particular Stroke of Justice; he had been one of the *Camisars*, been concerned in their *Councils* and *Actions*, knew their *Designs* and propos'd *Methods* of Executing them; he at once turn'd *Apostate* and *Traytor*: His *Apostacy* was attended with *Persecution* and *Cruelty*; for when a Man has thrown up all the Principles of *Honour*, *Honesty*, nay, *Humanity* it self, he becomes a meer Beast; and seeks, as it were, an *Unnatural Revenge* against those that keep steady to their Principles. This we have often observed in the Defection of Parties in *England*, such as have gone over to the other side when they have been Vested with Power, have become *Cruel Persecutors* of those they have Deserted, and have often met with the Fate of *Julien*.

But a very Considerable Observation occurs upon your Account of the *Camisars*, who could have thought that these People, who have been *Despised*, *Neglected* and *Unassisted*, should, by the Wise turn of Providence, prove Assistants to the Confederates, as they are at this time. For the Duke of *Berwick* was ordered to March to *Catalonia* with an Army; and upon the new Insurrection of the *Cevennois* those Troops are ordered to Act in *Languedoc*. Now keeping a Force from Acting against the Confederates is an Assistance as good as so many Troops sent them. He that keeps mine Enemy from assaulting me, does in the highest measure assist me. And thus these Poor Despicable People have done us those good Offices which could be wish'd had been done them long ago. Well, Honest *Country-man*, what News from the Earl of *Peterborough*?

Country-m. Rare News, Master, his *Lordship* is 20000 Strong, and has laid Seige to *Barcelona*, before which they have opened the Trenches.

Obs. To the great Mortification of his *Lordships Enemies*, who, where ever we come are lessening that *Expedition*. They tell us now, That our *Troops* are joyn'd only by the *Common People*, that the *Chiefs* are still in the Interest of the D. *D' Anjou*. But, *Country man*, 'tis the Numbers we want; and the Common People in all Countries are more Numerous than the Nobility and Gentry; and the Chiefs of the Country, when the Common People are like to carry the Point, will come in fast enough to save their Bacon. I am sure, in Point of *War*, that Party has the surest hold, that has the Common People on his side; and therefore those are ill advis'd that do not keep the Affections of the *Plebeians* entire. I have often observ'd that it has prov'd fatal to the Kings of *England*, when they have Establish'd a Ministry,

Miniſtry, againſt whom the People have been diſguſted: For tho' the Miniſtry may adviſe, 'tis the Common People, by their Numbers, muſt Support.

Well, then let the Duke *D' Anjou* have the *Chiefs*, and the Earl of *Peterborough* the *Peaſants*, the Work would be the ſooner done. Great Perſons are not always Men of the beſt *Courage*, but there is no withſtanding of Numbers. And had the People of *Spain* the ſame Opportunity of Declaring for the *Houſe of Auſtria*, as they now have in the Province of *Catalonia*, we may eaſily gueſs that the Defection would be much greater.

I hope and wiſh for Succeſs in *Catalonia*, becauſe a certain Party have endeavour'd to talk that Project Abortive before it was put in Execution, and conſulted their *Demons* how to make it ſo. We have another Party that are endeavouring to lay the Diſappointments in the Army at the Door of one that is not the leaſt Guilty, but Neceſſity, in a ſhort time, will lead me to this Diſcourſe.

Honeſt *Country-man*, I am glad of this rare News of *Catalonia*, and do hope for better; the *High-Flyers* Laugh but at one ſide of the Mouth, and another ſuch parcel of News will make 'em Cry down right. What elſe haſt got?

Country-m. Got. I have got a Complaint againſt you.

Obſ. That's no new thing: Is it a *Proteſtant* Complaint, or a *Popiſh* Complaint?

Country-m. I proteſt I don't know the *Religion* of the *Man*; but 'tis a Complaint of the *Author* of the *Review* in an *Advertiſement* of his, That you have inſulted him about the *Biſhops Certificate*.

Obſ. I proteſt I never wrote one Word about the *Biſhops Certificate*.

Country m. I told the People ſo at the *Coffee-Houſe*.

Obſ. Honeſt *Country-man*, 'tis very hard that this *Author* ſhould firſt endeavour to *Undermine* me by taking my *Title*, and then *Aſperſe* me with *Falſehoods*. I leave his own Party to Judge whether this be done either like a *Gentleman*, or a *Chriſtian*. And if he can produce any one Word of the *Biſhops Certificate* mention'd in any *Obſervator*, I will fairly knock under-board.

I am not in the leaſt concerned in the Controverſie betwixt the *Biſhop* and the *Review*. I am ſure one of 'em muſt be in the wrong, and their Vindication is to themſelves.

Indeed I was ſomewhat concerned in the Vindication of the *Engliſh Liberties* againſt the *Rebearſal*, but I left that to the *New Obſervator*, and I much rejoyc'd when, at a *Coffee-Houſe*, I heard ſome Perſons ſay how much the *Review* had been to hard for the *Rebearſal* on that Subject. But when I came to read the Paper, I expected to find what I never yet found on that Paper, I mean ſome Argument.

I believe there was never in the World two ſuch Diſputants as the *Review* and *Rebearſal*, for they are engaged in a Controverſie that neither of 'em underſtands.

The *Rebearſal* tells you of the *Anti & Poſt Diluvian Forms* of *Government*, which is no more a Rule to Us, than our *Government* is a Rule to *Preſter John*. He has found out ſuch unaccountable Notions of *Government*, and advances ſuch ſtrange *Inconſiſtancies*, that in time he'll perſwade you, that your *Son* was your *Father*, and that your *Daughter* Bore her *Mother*.

The *Review* in anſwer to the *Rebearſals* Arguments, tells us That his Deſign is againſt the *Government*, *&c.* a Boy of 15 knows all this, and what is it to the purpoſe? This is no confuting an Argument in Point of *Government*, which ought to be back'd with Reaſons, drawn from the *Practice*, *Cuſtoms*, and *Uſage* of our Anceſtors.

I ſhall not dabble too far in the *Reviews Lay-ſtall*, but ſhall depart with this Melancholy Conſideration, That the People of *England* are much decay'd in their *Underſtandings*, when they take up with *Froth* and *Vanity*, and are pleas'd with *Words* and *Jingle* inſtead of *Argument*.

Adverſiſements.

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